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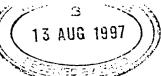
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GENETIC CONTROL OF PLANT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

This invention relates to the genetic control of growth and/or development of plants and the cloning and expression of genes involved therein. More particularly, the invention relates to the cloning and expression of the Rht gene of Triticum Aestivum, and homologues from other species, and use of the genes in plants.

An understanding of the genetic mechanisms which influence growth and development of plants, including flowering, provides a means for altering the characteristics 10 of a target plant. Species for which manipulation of growth and/or development characteristics may be advantageous includes all crops, with important examples being the cereals, rice and maize, probably the most agronomically important in 15 warmer climatic zones, and wheat, barley, oats and rye in more temperate climates. Important crops for seed products are oil seed rape and canola, maize, sunflower, soyabean and sorghum. Many crops which are harvested for their roots are, of course, grown annually from seed and the production of seed of any kind is very dependent upon the ability of the plant to flower, to be pollinated and to set seed. In horticulture, control of the timing of growth and development, including flowering, is important. Horticultural plants whose flowering may be controlled include lettuce, endive and vegetable 25 brassicas including cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, and carnations and geraniums. Dwarf plants on the one hand and over-size, taller plants on the other may be advantageous and/or desirable in various horticultural and agricultural

contexts, further including trees, plantation crops and grasses.

Recent decades have seen huge increases in wheat grain yields due to the incorporation of semi-dwarfing Rht homeoalleles into breeding programmes. These increases have enabled wheat productivity to keep pace with the demands of the rising world population. Previously, we described the cloning of the Arabidopsis gai alleles (unpublished International patent application PCT/GB97/00390 filed 12 February 1997, John Innes Centre Innovations Limited, the full 10 contents of which are incorporated herein by reference) which, like Rht mutant alleles, confers a semi-dominant dwarf phenotype and a reduction in responsiveness to the plant growth hormone gibberellin (GA). gai encodes a mutant protein (gai) which lacks a 17 amino acid residue segment found near 15 the N-terminus of the wild-type (GAI) protein. The sequence of this segment is highly conserved in a rice cDNA sequence (EST). Here we show that this cDNA maps to a short section of the overlapping cereal genome maps known to contain the Rht loci, and that we have used the cDNA to isolate the Rht genes of wheat. That genomes as widely diverged as those of Arabidopsis and Triticum should carry a conserved sequence which, when mutated, affects GA responsiveness, indicates a role for that sequence in GA signalling that is conserved throughout the plant kingdom. Furthermore, cloning of Rht 25 permits, its transfer to many different crop species, with the aim of yield enhancement as great as that obtained previously with wheat.

The introduction of semi-dwarfing Rht homeoalleles (originally known as Norin 10 genes, derived from a Japanese variety, Norin 10) into elite bread-wheat breeding lines was one of the most significant contributors to the so-called 5 "green revolution" (Gale et al, 1985. Dwarfing genes in In: Progress in Plant Breeding, G.E. Russell (ed) Butterworths, London pp 1-35). Wheat containing these homeoalleles consistently out-yield wheats lacking them, and now comprise around 80% of the world's wheat crop. 10 biological basis of this yield-enhancement appears to be twofold. Firstly, the semi-dwarf phenotype conferred by the Rht alleles causes an increased resistance to lodging (flattening of plants by wind/rain with consequent loss of yield). Secondly, these alleles cause a reallocation of 15 photoassimilate, with more being directed towards the grain, and less towards the stem (Gale et al, 1985). properties have major effects on wheat yields, as demonstrated by the fact that UK wheat yields increased by over 20% during the years that Rht-containing lines were taken up by farmers.

The rht mutants are dwarfed because they contain a genetically dominant, mutant rht allele which compromises their responses to gibberellin (GA, an endogenous plant growth regulator) (Gale et al, 1976. Heredity 37; 283-289). Thus the coleoptiles of rht mutants, unlike those of wild-type wheat plants, do not respond to GA applications. In addition, rht mutants accumulate biologically active GAs to higher levels than found in wild-type controls (Lenton et al, 1987. Gibberellin insensitivity and depletion in wheat -

consequences for development. In: Hormone action in Plant Development - a critical appraisal. GV Haod, JR Lenton, MB Jackson and RK Atkin (eds) Butterworths, London pp 145-160). These properties (genetic dominance, reduced GA-responses, and 5 high endogenous GA levels) are common to the phenotypes conferred by mutations in other species (D8/D9 in maize; gai in Arabidopsis), indicating that these mutant alleles define orthologous genes in these different species, supported further by the observation that D8/D9 and Rht are syntenous loci in the genomes of maize and wheat.

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According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with Rht function. 15 The term "Rht function" indicates ability to influence the phenotype of a plant like the Rht gene of Triticum. function" may be observed phenotypically in a plant as inhibition, suppression, repression or reduction of plant growth which inhibition, suppression, repression or reduction 20 is antagonised by GA. Rht expression tends to confer a dwarf phenotype on a plant which is antagonised by GA. Overexpression in a plant from a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with Rht function may be used to confer a dwarf phenotype on a plant which is correctable by treatment with GA. 25

Also according to an aspect of the present invention there is provided a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with ability to confer a rht mutant phenotype upon expression. rht mutant plants are dwarfed compared with wild-type, the dwarfing being GA-insensitive.

Herein, "Rht" (capitalised) is used to refer to the wildtype function, while "rht" (uncapitalised) is used to refer to mutant function.

Many plant growth and developmental processes are regulated by specific members of a family of tetracyclic diterpenoid growth factors known as gibberellins (GA) (Hooley, 10 Plant Mol. Biol. 26, 1529-1555 (1994)). By gibberellin or GA is meant a diterpenoid molecule with the basic carbon-ring structure shown in Figure 6 and possessing biological activity, i.e. we refer to biologically active gibberellins.

Biological activity may be defined by one or more of

stimulation of cell elongation, leaf senescence or elicitation
of the cereal aleurone α-amylase response. There are many
standard assays available in the art, a positive result in any
one or more of which signals a test gibberellin as
biologically active (Hoad et al., Phytochemistry 20, 703-713

(1981); Serebryakov et al., Phytochemistry 23, 1847-1854
(1984); Smith et al., Phytochemistry 33, 17-20 (1993)).

Assays available in the art include the lettuce hypocotyl assay, cucumber hypocotyl assay, and oat first leaf assay, all of which determine biological activity on the basis of ability of an applied gibberellin to cause elongation of the respective tissue. Preferred assays are those in which the test composition is applied to a gibberellin-deficient plant. Such preferred assays include treatment of dwarf GA-deficient

Arabidopsis to determine growth, the dwarf pea assay, in which internode elongation is determined, the Tan-ginbozu dwarf rice assay, in which elongation of leaf sheath is determined, and the d5-maize assay, also in which elongation of leaf sheath is determined. The elongation bioassays measure the effects of general cell elongation in the respective organs and are not restricted to particular cell types.

Further available assays include the dock (Rumex) leaf

senescence assay and the cereal aleurone α -amylase assay.

Aleurone cells which surround the endosperm in grain secrete α -amylase on germination, which digests starch to produce sugars then used by the growing plant. The enzyme production is controlled by GA. Isolated aleurone cells given biologically active GA secrete α -amylase whose activity can then be assayed, for example by measurement of degradation of starch.

Structural features important for high biological activity (exhibited by GA_1 , GA_3 , GA_4 and GA_7) are a carboxyl group on C-6 of B-ring; C-19, C-10 lactone; and β -

hydroxylation at C-3. β -hydroxylation at C-2 causes inactivity (exhibited by GA_8 , GA_{29} , GA_{34} and GA_{51}). rht mutants do not respond to GA treatment, e.g. treatment with GA_1 , GA_3 or GA_4 .

Treatment with GA is preferably by spraying with aqueous solution, for example spraying with 10⁻⁴M GA₃ or GA₄ in aqueous solution, perhaps weekly or more frequently, and may be by placing droplets on plants rather than spraying. GA may be applied dissolved in an organic solvent such as ethanol or

acetone, because it is more soluble in these than in water, but this is not preferred because these solvents have a tendency to damage plants. If an organic solvent is to be used, suitable formulations include 24 η l of 0.6, 4.0 or 300mM GA₃ or GA₄ dissolved in 80% ethanol. Plants, e.g. Arabidopsis, may be grown on a medium containing GA, such as tissue culture medium (GM) solidified with agar and containing supplementary GA.

Nucleic acid according to the present invention may have the sequence of a wild-type Rht gene of Triticum or be a 10 mutant, derivative, variant or allele of the sequence provided. Preferred mutants, derivatives, variants and alleles are those which encode a protein which retains a functional characteristic of the protein encoded by the wild-15 type gene, especially the ability for plant growth inhibition, which inhibition is antagonised by GA, or ability to confer on a plant one or more other characteristics responsive to GA treatment of the plant. Other preferred mutants, derivatives, variants and alleles encode a protein which confers a rht 20 mutant phenotype, that is to say reduced plant growth which reduction is insensitive to GA, i.e. not overcome by GA treatment. Changes to a sequence, to produce a mutant, variant or derivative, may be by one or more of addition, insertion, deletion or substitution of one or more nucleotides 25 in the nucleic acid, leading to the addition, insertion, deletion or substitution of one or more amino acids in the encoded polypeptide. Of course, changes to the nucleic acid which make no difference to the encoded amino acid sequence

are included.

A preferred nucleotide sequence for a Rht gene is one which encodes the RHT amino acid sequence shown in Figure 3b, especially a Rht coding sequence shown in Figure 3a. A preferred rht mutant lacks part or all of the 17 amino acid sequence underlined in Figure 3b, and/or part or the sequence DVAQKLEQLE, which immediately follows the 17 amino acid sequence underlined in Figure 3b.

The present invention also provides a nucleic acid 10 construct or vector which comprises nucleic acid with any one of the provided sequences, preferably a construct or vector from which polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence can be expressed. The construct or vector is preferably suitable for transformation into a plant cell. The invention 15 further encompasses a host cell transformed with such a construct or vector, especially a plant cell. Thus, a host cell, such as a plant cell, comprising nucleic acid according to the present invention is provided. Within the cell, the nucleic acid may be incorporated within the chromosome. may be more than one heterologous nucleotide sequence per haploid genome. This, for example, enables increased expression of the gene product compared with endogenous levels, as discussed below.

A construct or vector comprising nucleic acid according

to the present invention need not include a promoter or other
regulatory sequence, particularly if the vector is to be used
to introduce the nucleic acid into cells for recombination
into the genome. However, in one aspect the present invention

provides a nucleic acid construct comprising a Rht or rht coding sequence (which includes homologues from other than Triticum) joined to a regulatory sequence for control of expression, the regulatory sequence being other than that naturally fused to the coding sequence and preferably of or derived from another gene.

Nucleic acid molecules and vectors according to the present invention may be as an isolate, provided isolated from their natural environment, in substantially pure or

10 homogeneous form, or free or substantially free of nucleic acid or genes of the species of interest or origin other than the sequence encoding a polypeptide able to influence growth and/or development, which may include flowering, eg in Triticum Aestivum nucleic acid other than the Rht coding

15 sequence. The term "nucleic acid isolate" encompasses wholly or partially synthetic nucleic acid.

Nucleic acid may of course be double- or single-stranded, cDNA or genomic DNA, RNA, wholly or partially synthetic, as appropriate. Of course, where nucleic acid according to the invention includes RNA, reference to the sequence shown should be construed as reference to the RNA equivalent, with U substituted for T.

The present invention also encompasses the expression product of any of the nucleic acid sequences disclosed and methods of making the expression product by expression from encoding nucleic acid therefor under suitable conditions in suitable host cells. Those skilled in the art are well able to construct vectors and design protocols for expression and

recovery of products of recombinant gene expression. Suitable vectors can be chosen or constructed, containing appropriate regulatory sequences, including promoter sequences, terminator fragments, polyadenylation sequences, enhancer sequences, 5 marker genes and other sequences as appropriate. For further details see, for example, Molecular Cloning: a Laboratory Manual: 2nd edition, Sambrook et al, 1989, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Transformation procedures depend on the host used, but are well known. Many known techniques and 10 protocols for manipulation of nucleic acid, for example in preparation of nucleic acid constructs, mutagenesis, sequencing, introduction of DNA into cells and gene expression, and analysis of proteins, are described in detail in Protocols in Molecular Biology, Second Edition, Ausubel et 15 al. eds., John Wiley & Sons, 1992. Specific procedures and vectors previously used with wide success upon plants are described by Bevan, Nucl. Acids Res. (1984) 12, 8711-8721), and Guerineau and Mullineaux, (1993) Plant transformation and expression vectors. In: Plant Molecular Biology Labfax (Croy 20 RRD ed) Oxford, BIOS Scientific Publishers, pp 121-148. disclosures of Sambrook et al. and Ausubel et al. and all other documents mentioned herein are incorporated herein by reference.

Expression as a fusion with a polyhistidine tag allows

25 purification of Rht or rht to be achieved using Ni-NTA resin
available from QIAGEN Inc. (USA) and DIAGEN GmbH (Germany).

See Janknecht et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88, 8972-8976

(1991) and EP-A-0253303 and EP-A-0282042. Ni-NTA resin has

high affinity for proteins with consecutive histidines close to the N- or C- terminus of the protein and so may be used to purifiy histidine-tagged Rht or rht proteins from plants, plant parts or extracts or from recombinant organisms such as yeast or bacteria, e.g. E. coli, expressing the protein.

Purified Rht protein, e.g. produced recombinantly by expression from encoding nucleic acid therefor, may be used to raise antibodies employing techniques which are standard in the art. Antibodies and polypeptides comprising antigen-10 binding fragments of antibodies may be used in identifying homologues from other species as discussed further below.

Methods of producing antibodies include immunising a mammal (eg human, mouse, rat, rabbit, horse, goat, sheep or monkey) with the protein or a fragment thereof. Antibodies 15 may be obtained from immunised animals using any of a variety of techniques known in the art, and might be screened, preferably using binding of antibody to antigen of interest. For instance, Western blotting techniques or immunoprecipitation may be used (Armitage et al, 1992, Nature 357: 80-82). Antibodies may be polyclonal or monoclonal.

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As an alternative or supplement to immunising a mammal, antibodies with appropriate binding specificty may be obtained from a recombinantly produced library of expressed immunoglobulin variable domains, eg using lambda bacteriophage or filamentous bacteriophage which display functional immunoglobulin binding domains on their surfaces; for instance see WO92/01047.

Antibodies raised to a Rht, or rht, polypeptide can be

used in the identification and/or isolation of homologous polypeptides, and then the encoding genes. Thus, the present invention provides a method of identifying or isolating a polypeptide with Rht function or ability to confer a rht mutant phenotype, comprising screening candidate polypeptides with a polypeptide comprising the antigen-binding domain of an antibody (for example whole antibody or a fragment thereof) which is able to bind an Triticum Aestivum Rht or rht polypeptide, or preferably has binding specificity for such a polypeptide, such as having the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 4.

Candidate polypeptides for screening may for instance be the products of an expression library created using nucleic acid derived from an plant of interest, or may be the product of a purification process from a natural source.

A polypeptide found to bind the antibody may be isolated and then may be subject to amino acid sequencing. Any suitable technique may be used to sequence the polypeptide either wholly or partially (for instance a fragment of the polypeptide may be sequenced). Amino acid sequence information may be used in obtaining nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide, for instance by designing one or more oligonucleotides (e.g. a degenerate pool of oligonucleotides) for use as probes or primers in hybridisation to candidate nucleic acid, as discussed further below.

A further aspect of the present invention provides a method of identifying and cloning Rht homologues from plant species other than Triticum which method employs a nucleotide

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sequence derived from any shown in Figure 2 or Figure 3a.

Sequences derived from these may themselves be used in identifying and in cloning other sequences. The nucleotide sequence information provided herein, or any part thereof, may be used in a data-base search to find homologous sequences, expression products of which can be tested for Rht function. Alternatively, nucleic acid libraries may be screened using techniques well known to those skilled in the art and homologous sequences thereby identified then tested.

10 For instance, the present invention also provides a method of identifying and/or isolating a Rht or rht homologue gene, comprising probing candidate (or "target") nucleic acid with nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide with Rht function or a fragment or mutant, derivative or allele

15 thereof. The candidate nucleic acid (which may be, for instance, cDNA or genomic DNA) may be derived from any cell or organism which may contain or is suspected of containing nucleic acid encoding such a homologue.

In a preferred embodiment of this aspect of the present invention, the nucleic acid used for probing of candidate nucleic acid encodes an amino acid sequence shown in Figure 3b, a sequence complementary to a coding sequence, or a fragment of any of these, most preferably comprising a nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 3a.

Alternatively, as discussed, a probe may be designed using amino acid sequence information obtained by sequencing a polypeptide identified as being able to be bound by an antigen-binding domain of an antibody which is able to bind a

Rht or rht polypeptide such as one with the Rht amino acid sequence shown in Figure 3b.

Preferred conditions for probing are those which are stringent enough for there to be a simple pattern with a small number of hybridizations identified as positive which can be investigated further. It is well known in the art to increase stringency of hybridisation gradually until only a few positive clones remain.

As an alternative to probing, though still employing

10 nucleic acid hybridisation, oligonucleotides designed to

amplify DNA sequences from Rht genes may be used in PCR or

other methods involving amplification of nucleic acid, using

routine procedures. See for instance "PCR protocols; A Guide

to Methods and Applications", Eds. Innis et al, 1990, Academic

15 Press, New York.

Preferred amino acid sequences suitable for use in the design of probes or PCR primers are sequences conserved (completely, substantially or partly) between Rht genes.

On the basis of amino acid sequence information,

oligonucleotide probes or primers may be designed, taking into
account the degeneracy of the genetic code, and, where
appropriate, codon usage of the organism from the candidate
nucleic acid is derived. In particular, primers and probes
may be designed using information on conversed sequences

apparent from, for example, Figure 3 and/or Figure 4.

Where a full-length encoding nucleic acid molecule has not been obtained, a smaller molecule representing part of the full molecule, may be used to obtain full-length clones.

Inserts may be prepared for example from partial cDNA clones and used to screen cDNA libraries. The full-length clones isolated may be subcloned into vectors such as expression vectors or vectors suitable for transformation into plants.

5 Overlapping clones may be used to provide a full-length sequence.

The present invention also extends to nucleic acid encoding Rht or a homologue obtainable using a nucleotide sequence derived from Figure 2 or Figure 3a, and such nucleic acid obtainable using one or more, e.g. a pair, of primers including a sequence shown in Figure 5.

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Also included within the scope of the present invention are nucleic acid molecules which encode amino acid sequences which are homologues of the polypeptide encoded by Rht of Triticum. A homologue may be from a species other than Triticum.

Homology may be at the nucleotide sequence and/or amino acid sequence level. Preferably, the nucleic acid and/or amino acid sequence shares homology with the sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of Figure 3a, preferably at least about 50%, or 60%, or 70%, or 80% homology, most preferably at least 90%, 92%, 95% or 97% homology. Nucleic acid encoding such a polypeptide may preferably share with the Triticum Rht gene the ability to confer a particular phenotype on expression in a plant, preferably a phenotype which is GA responsive (i.e. there is a change in a characteristic of the plant on treatment with GA), such as the ability to inhibit plant growth where the inhibition is antagonised by GA. As

noted, Rht expression in a plant may affect one or more other characteristics of the plant. A preferred characteristic that may be shared with the Triticum Rht gene is the ability to complement a Rht null mutant phenotype in a plant such as Triticum, such phenotype being resistance to the dwarfing effect of paclobutrazol. The slender mutant of barley maps to a location in the barley genome equivalent to that of Rht in the wheat genome. Such mutant plants are strongly paclobutrazol resistant. The present inventors believe that the slender barley mutant is a null mutant allele of the orthologous gene to wheat Rht, allowing for complementation of the barley mutant with the wheat gene. Ability to complement a slender mutant in barley may be a characteristic of embodiments of the present invention.

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15 Some preferred embodiments of polypeptides according to the present invention (encoded by nucleic acid embodiments according to the present invention) include the 17 amino acid sequence which is underlined in Figure 3b, or a contiguous sequence of amino acids residues with at least about 10 20 residues with similarity or identity with the respective corresponding residue (in terms of position) in 17 amino acids which are underlined in Figure 3b, more preferably 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17 such residues, and/or the sequence DVAQKLEQLE, or a contiguous sequence of amino acids with at 25 least about 5 residues with similarity or identity with the respective corresponding residue (in terms of position) within DVAQKLEQLE, more preferably 6, 7, 8 or 9 such residues. Further embodiments include the 27 amino acid sequence

DELLAALGYKVRASDMADVAQKLEQLE, or a contiguous sequence of amino acids residues with at least about 15 residues with similarity or identity with the respective corresponding residue (in terms of position) within this sequence, more preferably 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26 such residues.

As is well-understood, homology at the amino acid level is generally in terms of amino acid similarity or identity. Similarity allows for "conservative variation", i.e. substitution of one hydrophobic residue such as isoleucine, 10 valine, leucine or methionine for another, or the substitution of one polar residue for another, such as arginine for lysine, glutamic for aspartic acid, or glutamine for asparagine. Similarity may be as defined and determined by the TBLASTN program, of Altschul et al. (1990) J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-10, 15 which is in standard use in the art. Homology may be over the full-length of the Rht sequence of Figure 3b, or may more preferably be over a contiguous sequence of 10 amino acids . compared with DVAQKLEQLE, and/or a contiguous sequence of 17 amino acids, compared with the 17 amino acids underlined in Figure 3b, and/or a contiguous sequence of 27 amino acids compared with DELLAALGYKVRASDMADVAQKLEQLE, or a longer sequence, e.g. about 30, 40, 50 or more amino acids, compared with the amino acid sequence of Figure 3b and preferably including the underlined 17 amino acids and/or DVAQKLEQLE.

25 At the nucleic acid level, homology may be over the fulllength or more preferably by comparison with the 30 nucleotide coding sequence within the sequence of Figure 3a and encoding the sequence DVAQKLEQLE and/or the 51 nucleotide coding

polypeptide which includes an amino acid sequence which is a mutant, allele, derivative or variant sequence of the Rht amino acid sequence of the species Triticum Aestivum shown in Figure 3b, or is a homologue of another species or a mutant, 5 allele, derivative or variant thereof, wherein said mutant, allele, derivative, variant or homologue differs from the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 3b by way of insertion, deletion, addition and/or substitution of one or more amino acids, as obtainable by producing transgenic plants by transforming plants which have a Rht null mutant phenotype, which phenotype is resistance to the dwarfing effect of paclobutrazol, with test nucleic acid, causing or allowing expression from test nucleic acid within the transgenic plants, screening the transgenic plants for those exhibiting 15 complementation of the Rht null mutant phenotype to identify test nucleic acid able to complement the Rht null mutant, deleting from nucleic acid so identified as being able to complement the Rht null mutant a nucleotide sequence encoding the 17 amino acid sequence underlined in Figure 3b or a contiguous 17 amino acid sequence in which at least 10 residues have similarity or identity with the respective amino acid in the corresponding position in the 17 amino acid sequence underlined in Figure 3b, more preferably 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17, and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding DVAQKLEQLE or a contiguous sequence of 10 amino aicds with at least about 5 (more preferably 6, 7, 8 or 9) which have similarity or identity with the corresponding residue in the sequence DVAQKLEQLE.

A cell containing nucleic acid of the present invention represents a further aspect of the invention, particularly a plant cell, or a bacterial cell.

The cell may comprise the nucleic acid encoding the enzyme by virtue of introduction into the cell or an ancestor thereof of the nucleic acid, e.g. by transformation using any suitable technique available to those skilled in the art.

Also according to the invention there is provided a plant cell having incorporated into its genome nucleic acid as disclosed.

The present invention also provides a plant comprising such a plant cell.

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Also according to the invention there is provided a plant cell having incorporated into its genome a sequence of 15 nucleotides as provided by the present invention, underoperative control of a regulatory sequence for control of expression. A further aspect of the present invention provides a method of making such a plant cell involving introduction of a vector comprising the sequence of nucleotides into a plant cell and causing or allowing recombination between the vector and the plant cell genome to introduce the sequence of nucleotides into the genome.

A plant according to the present invention may be one which does not breed true in one or more properties. varieties may be excluded, particularly registrable plant varieties according to Plant Breeders' Rights. It is noted that a plant need not be considered a "plant variety" simply because it contains stably within its genome a transgene,

expression, and therefore growth and/or development of the plant according to preference. Furthermore, mutants and derivatives of the wild-type gene may be used in place of the endogenous gene. The inserted gene may be foreign or exogenous to the host cell, e.g. of another plant species.

The principal characteristic which may be altered using the present invention is growth.

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According to the model of the Rht gene as a growth repressor, under-expression of the gene may be used to promote growth, at least in plants which have only one endogenous gene conferring Rht function (not for example Arabidopsis which has endogenous homologues which would compensate). This may involve use of anti-sense or sense regulation. Taller plants may be made by knocking out Rht or the relevant homologous gene in the plant of interest. Plants may be made which are resistant to compounds which inhibit GA biosynthesis, such as paclobutrazol, for instance to allow use of a GA biosynthesis inhibitor to keep weeds dwarf but let crop plants grow tall.

Over-expression of a Rht gene may lead to a dwarf plant
which is correctable by treatment with GA, as predicted by the
Rht repression model.

Since rht mutant genes are dominant on phenotype, they
may be used to make GA-insensitive dwarf plants. This may be
applied for example to any transformable crop-plant, tree or
fruit-tree species. It may provide higher yield/reduced
lodging like Rht wheat. In rice this may provide GAinsensitive rice resistant to the Bakane disease, which is a
problem in Japan and elsewhere. Dwarf ornamentals may be of

value for the horticulture and cut-flower markets. Sequence manipulation may provide for varying degrees of severity of dwarfing, GA-insensitive phenotype, allowing tailoring of the degree of severity to the needs of each crop-plant or the wishes of the manipulator. Over-expression of rht-mutant sequences is potentially the most useful.

A second characteristic that may be altered is plant development, for instance flowering. In some plants, and in certain environmental conditions, a GA signal is required for 10 floral induction. For example, GA-deficient mutant Arabidopsis plants grown under short day conditions will do not flower unless treated with GA: these plants do flower normally when grown under long day conditions. Arabidopsis gai mutant plants show delayed flowering under short day 15 conditions: severe mutants may not flower at all. instance by Rht or rht gene expression or over-expression, plants may be produced which remain vegetative until given GA treatment to induce flowering. This may be useful in horticultural contexts or for spinach, lettuce and other crops 20 where suppression of bolting is desirable.

The nucleic acid according to the invention may be placed under the control of an externally inducible gene promoter to place the Rht or rht coding sequence under the control of the user.

The term "inducible" as applied to a promoter is well understood by those skilled in the art. In essence, expression under the control of an inducible promoter is "switched on" or increased in response to an applied stimulus.

The nature of the stimulus varies between promoters. inducible promoters cause little or undetectable levels of expression (or no expression) in the absence of the appropriate stimulus. Other inducible promoters cause 5 detectable constitutive expression in the absence of the stimulus. Whatever the level of expression is in the absence of the stimulus, expression from any inducible promoter is increased in the presence of the correct stimulus. preferable situation is where the level of expression increases upon application of the relevant stimulus by an 10 amount effective to alter a phenotypic characteristic. an inducible (or "switchable") promoter may be used which causes a basic level of expression in the absence of the stimulus which level is too low to bring about a desired 15 phenotype (and may in fact be zero). Upon application of the stimulus, expression is increased (or switched on) to a level which brings about the desired phenotype.

Suitable promoters include the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus 35S (CaMV 35S) gene promoter that is expressed at a high level in virtually all plant tissues (Benfey et al, 1990a and 1990b); the maize glutathione-S-transferase isoform II (GST-II-27) gene promoter which is activated in response to application of exogenous safener (WO93/01294, ICI Ltd); the cauliflower meri 5 promoter that is expressed in the vegetative apical meristem as well as several well localised positions in the plant body, eg inner phloem, flower primordia, branching points in root and shoot (Medford, 1992; Medford et al, 1991) and the Arabidopsis thaliana LEAFY

promoter that is expressed very early in flower development (Weigel et al, 1992).

The GST-II-27 gene promoter has been shown to be induced by certain chemical compounds which can be applied to growing plants. The promoter is functional in both monocotyledons and dicotyledons. It can therefore be used to control gene expression in a variety of genetically modified plants, including field crops such as canola, sunflower, tobacco, sugarbeet, cotton; cereals such as wheat, barley, rice, maize, sorghum; fruit such as tomatoes, mangoes, peaches, apples, pears, strawberries, bananas, and melons; and vegetables such as carrot, lettuce, cabbage and onion. The GST-II-27 promoter is also suitable for use in a variety of tissues, including roots, leaves, stems and reproductive tissues.

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Accordingly, the present invention provides in a further aspect a gene construct comprising an inducible promoter operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence provided by the present invention, such as the Rht gene of Triticum a homologue from another plant species or any mutant, derivative or allele thereof. This enables control of expression of the gene. The invention also provides plants transformed with said gene construct and methods comprising introduction of such a construct into a plant cell and/or induction of expression of a construct within a plant cell, by application of a suitable stimulus, an effective exogenous inducer. The promoter may be the GST-II-27 gene promoter or any other inducible plant promoter.

When introducing a chosen gene construct into a cell,

following introduction of the nucleic acid into plant cells, optionally followed by regeneration into a plant, e.g. using one or more marker genes such as antibiotic resistance (see above).

5 Plants transformed with the DNA segment containing the sequence may be produced by standard techniques which are already known for the genetic manipulation of plants. DNA can be transformed into plant cells using any suitable technology, such as a disarmed Ti-plasmid vector carried by Agrobacterium 10 exploiting its natural gene transfer ability (EP-A-270355, EP-A-0116718, NAR 12(22) 8711 - 87215 1984), particle or microprojectile bombardment (US 5100792, EP-A-444882, EP-A-434616) microinjection (WO 92/09696, WO 94/00583, EP 331083, EP 175966, Green et al. (1987) Plant Tissue and Cell Culture, 15 Academic Press), electroporation (EP 290395, WO 8706614 Gelvin Debeyser - see attached) other forms of direct DNA uptake (DE 4005152, WO 9012096, US 4684611), liposome mediated DNA uptake (e.g. Freeman et al. Plant Cell Physiol. 29: 1353 (1984)), or the vortexing method (e.g. Kindle, PNAS U.S.A. 87: 1228 (1990d). Physical methods for the transformation of plant 20 cells are reviewed in Oard, 1991, Biotech. Adv. 9: 1-11.

Agrobacterium transformation is widely used by those skilled in the art to transform dicotyledonous species.

Recently, there has been substantial progress towards the routine production of stable, fertile transgenic plants in almost all economically relevant monocot plants (Toriyama, et al. (1988) Bio/Technology 6, 1072-1074; Zhang, et al. (1988) Plant Cell Rep. 7, 379-384; Zhang, et al. (1988) Theor Appl

Genet 76, 835-840; Shimamoto, et al. (1989) Nature 338, 274-276; Datta, et al. (1990) Bio/Technology 8, 736-740; Christou, et al. (1991) Bio/Technology 9, 957-962; Peng, et al. (1991) International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines 563-574; Cao, et al. (1992) Plant Cell Rep. 11, 585-591; Li, et al. (1993) Plant Cell Rep. 12, 250-255; Rathore, et al. (1993) Plant Molecular Biology 21, 871-884; Fromm, et al. (1990) Bio/Technology 8, 833-839; Gordon-Kamm, et al. (1990) Plant Cell 2, 603-618; D'Halluin, et al. (1992) Plant Cell 4, 1495-1505; Walters, et al. (1992) Plant Molecular Biology 18, 10 189-200; Koziel, et al. (1993) Biotechnology 11, 194-200; Vasil, I. K. (1994) Plant Molecular Biology 25, 925-937; Weeks, et al. (1993) Plant Physiology 102, 1077-1084; Somers, et al. (1992) Bio/Technology 10, 1589-1594; WO92/14828). particular, Agrobacterium mediated transformation is now emerging also as an highly efficient transformation method in monocots (Hiei et al. (1994) The Plant Journal 6, 271-282).

The generation of fertile transgenic plants has been achieved in the cereals rice, maize, wheat, oat, and barley (reviewed in Shimamoto, K. (1994) Current Opinion in Biotechnology 5, 158-162.; Vasil, et al. (1992) Bio/Technology 10, 667-674; Vain et al., 1995, Biotechnology Advances 13 (4): 653-671; Vasil, 1996, Nature Biotechnology 14 page 702).

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Microprojectile bombardment, electroporation and direct

DNA uptake are preferred where Agrobacterium is inefficient or ineffective. Alternatively, a combination of different techniques may be employed to enhance the efficiency of the transformation process, eg bombardment with Agrobacterium

coated microparticles (EP-A-486234) or microprojectile bombardment to induce wounding followed by co-cultivation with Agrobacterium (EP-A-486233).

Brassica napus transformation is described in Moloney et 5 al. (1989) Plant Cell Reports 8: 238-242.

Following transformation, a plant may be regenerated, e.g. from single cells, callus tissue or leaf discs, as is standard in the art. Almost any plant can be entirely regenerated from cells, tissues and organs of the plant.

Available techniques are reviewd in Vasil et al., Cell Culture and Somatic Cel Genetics of Plants, Vol I, II and III,

Laboratory Procedures and Their Applications, Academic Press,

1984, and Weissbach and Weissbach, Methods for Plant Molecular Biology, Academic Press, 1989.

15 The particular choice of a transformation technology will be determined by its efficiency to transform certain plant species as well as the experience and preference of the person practising the invention with a particular methodology of choice. It will be apparent to the skilled person that the particular choice of a transformation system to introduce nucleic acid into plant cells is not essential to or a limitation of the invention, nor is the choice of technique for plant regeneration.

In the present invention, over-expression may be achieved by introduction of the nucleotide sequence in a sense orientation. Thus, the present invention provides a method of influencing a characteristic of a plant, the method comprising causing or allowing expression of nucleic acid according to

of protein from the target gene occurs. When the inserted gene is only part of the endogenous gene the number of under-expressing individuals in the transgenic population increases. The mechanism by which sense regulation occurs, 5 particularly down-regulation, is not well-understood. However, this technique is also well-reported in scientific and patent literature and is used routinely for gene control. See, for example, See, for example, van der Krol et al., (1990) The Plant Cell 2, 291-299; Napoli et al., (1990) The Plant Cell 2, 279-289; Zhang et al., (1992) The Plant Cell 4, 1575-1588, and US-A-5,231,020.

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Thus, the present invention also provides a method of influencing a characteristic of a plant, the method comprising causing or allowing expression from nucleic acid according to the invention within cells of the plant. This may be used to influence growth.

Aspects and embodiments of the present invention will now be illustrated, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying figures. Further aspects and embodiments will be apparent to those skilled in the art. All documents mentioned in this text are incorporated herein by reference.

The following Figures are included herein:

25 Figure 1: Alignment of N-terminus predicted GAI amino acid sequence (Gai) with rice EST D39460 (0830), with a region of homology outlined in black.

Figure 2: DNA sequences from C15-1, 14al and 5al.

Figure 2a shows a consensus DNA sequence cDNA C15-1 (obtained via single-pass sequencing).

Figure 2b shows data from original DNA sequencing runs from 14al (single-pass).

Figure 2c shows data from original DNA sequencing runs from 5al (single-pass).

Figure 3: Rht sequences.

Figure 3a shows a composite DNA sequence of wheat Rht gene derived from data in Figure 2, including coding sequence.

Figure 3b shows an alignment of the entire predicted Rht protein sequence encoded by the coding sequence of Figure 2 (rht) with the entire predicted GAI protein sequence of Arabidopsis (Gai). Regions of sequence identity are highlighted in black.

Figure 4: D39460 sequence.

Figure 4a shows DNA sequence (single-pass) of rice cDNA D39460. This cDNA is an incomplete, partial clone, missing the 3' end of the mRNA from which it is derived.

Figure 4b shows alignment of the entire predicted Rht

20 protein sequence (wheat - encoded by the coding sequence of
Figure 2) with that of GAI (Gai) and rice protein sequence
predicted from DNA sequence in Figure 4a (Rice). Regions of
amino acid identity are highlighted in black; some
conservative substitutions are shaded.

Figure 5: Primers used for sequencing Rht clones (Figure 2).

Figure 6: The basic carbon-ring structure of gibberellins.

Previously, we cloned the GAI gene of Arabidopsis (PCT/GB97/00390). Comparison of the DNA sequences of the wild-type (GAI) and mutant (gai) alleles showed that gai encodes a mutant predicted protein product (gai) which lacks a 5 segment of 17 amino acids from close to the N-terminus of the protein. Screening of the DNA sequence databases with the GAI sequence revealed the existence of a rice EST (D39460) which contains a region of sequence very closely related to that of the segment that is deleted from GAI in the gai protein. comprison of the predicted amino acid sequences from the region DELLA to EQLE are identical in both sequences. differences (V/A; E/D) are conservative substitutions, in which one amino acid residue is replaced by another having very similar chemical properties. In addition, the region of 15 identity extends beyond the boundary of the deletion region in the gai protein. The sequence DVAQKLEQLE is not affected by the deletion in gai, and yet is perfectly conserved between the GAI and D39460 sequences (Figure 1).

experiments to isolate hybridizing clones from wheat cDNA and genomic libraries. Several clones were isolated, including C15-1 and C15-10 (cDNAs), and 5al and 14al (genomic clones). Clone C15-1 has been used in gene mapping experiments. Nullisomic-tetrasomic analysis showed that clone C15-1 hybridizes to genomic DNA fragments derived from wheat chromosomes 4A, 4B and 4D. This is consistent with clone C15-1 containing Rht sequence, since the Rht loci map to the gorup 4 chromosomes. Furthermore, recombinant analysis using a

population segregating for the Rht-D1b (formerly Rht2) allele identified a hybridizing fragment that displayed perfect cosegregation with the mutant allele. This placed the genomic location of the gene encoding the mRNA sequence in cDNA C15-1 within a 2 cM segment (that was already known to contain Rht) of the group 4 chromosomes, and provides strong evidence that the cDNA and genomic clones do indeed contain the Rht gene.

Figure 2a gives the complete (single-pass) DNA sequence of cDNA C15-1. We have also obtained DNA sequence for C15-10; 10 it is identical with that of C15-1, and is therefore not Figures 2b and 2c show original data from individual sequencing runs from clones 14a1 and 5a1. The sequences shown in Figure 2 can be overlapped to make a composite DNA sequence, shown in Figure 3a. This sequence displays strong homology with that of Arabidopsis GAI, as revealed by a 15 comparison of the amino acid sequence of a predicted translational product of the wheat sequence (Rht) with that of GAI (GAI), shown in Figure 3b. In particular, the predicted amino acid sequence of the presumptive Rht reveals a region of near-identity with GAI over the region that is missing in 20 gai (Figure 4). Figure 4 reveals that the homology that extends beyond the gai deletion region in the rice EST is also conserved in Rht (DVAQKLEQLE), thus indicating that this region, in addition to that found in the gai deletion, is involved in GA signal-transduction. This region is not found 25 in SCR, another protein that is related in sequence to GAI but which is not involved in GA signalling. The primers used in the above sequencing experiments are shown in Figure 5.

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Consensus sequence of c-15-1

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201 CGACTTCCAX TACCGTGGCC TCGTCGCCGC CACGCTCGCG GACCTGGAGC
251 CGTTCATGCT GCAXCCGGAG GGCGAGGAGG ACCCGAACGA CGGAGCCCGA
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301	GCGGCTAGTT	CGATCTCCCG	CCCTCCGTCG	ACTCCTCCAG	CAGCATXTAX
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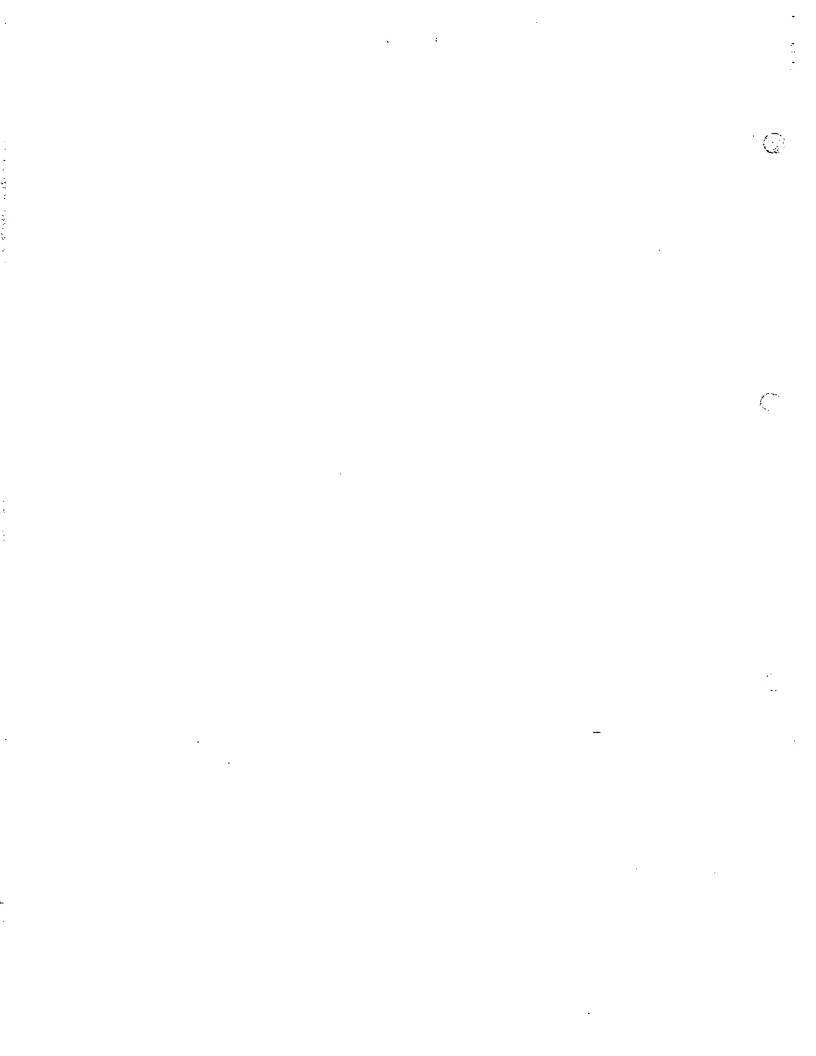
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1 GGACGACGAC CTCCGAGCCG ACCACCACCG GCATGTAGTA ATGTAATCCC
51 TTCTTCXTTC CCAGTXCTCC ACCGCCTCCA TGATCACCCG TAAAACTCCT
101 AAGCCCTATT ATTACTACTA TTATGTXTAA XTGTCTATTA TTGCTAXGTG
151 TAATTCCTCC AACCGCTCAT ATCAAAATAA GCACGGGCCG GACTTTGTTA
201 XCAGCTCCAA TGAGAATGAA ATGAATTTTG TACGCAAGGC ACGTCCAAAA
251 CTGGGCTGAG CTTTGTTCTG TTCTGTTATG TTCATGGTGC TCACTGCTCT
301 GATGAACATG ATGGTGCCTC CAATGGTGGC TTTGCAATTG TTGAAACGTT
351 TGGCTTGGGG GACTTGXGTG GGTGGGTGCA TGGGGATGAA TATTCACATC
401 XCCGGATTAA AATTAAGCCA TCCCGTTGGC CGTCCTTTGA ATAXCTTGCC

14 a1 clone Sequenced with Rht-13 primer



- 1 AAAXCCTAXA AXATATAGAG GCGATGTXGC XCCCCXATCA XXAACXGGAT
- 51 TACXGXAACX CCXGAAGGAG CGGCGGCGGC GGTGGCAGCA TXGGCTCGTC
- 101 CGATGACAAA TATCATGGTG TCGGCGGCGG CGGGGGACGG GGAGGAGGTG
- 151 CACAACXTTT XGGCGGGACT CGXGTACCAC GTGXACGGTG CCGCXCTXGX
- 201 GGATXTGGCC CTXGAAGATG GGCCACCTCC AAA

14a1 clone Sequenced with Rht-14 Primer

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- 1 CGGCGGCCCC GTGGCGGCAT GGGCTCGTCC GAGGACXAGA TGATGGTGTC
- 51 GGCGGCGCG GGGGAXGGGG ATGATGTGGA CTATCTGCTG GCGGCGCTCG
- 101 GGTACAAGGT GCGCGCCTCC GACAGGCGGA GCCCGCGCAT AACTGGAGCC
- 151 GCTCGAGATG GCCXTGGGGA TXGGCGGCXT GGGCXCCXGC GCCTCCCCCG

14 a 1 clone Sequenced with Rht-15 primer

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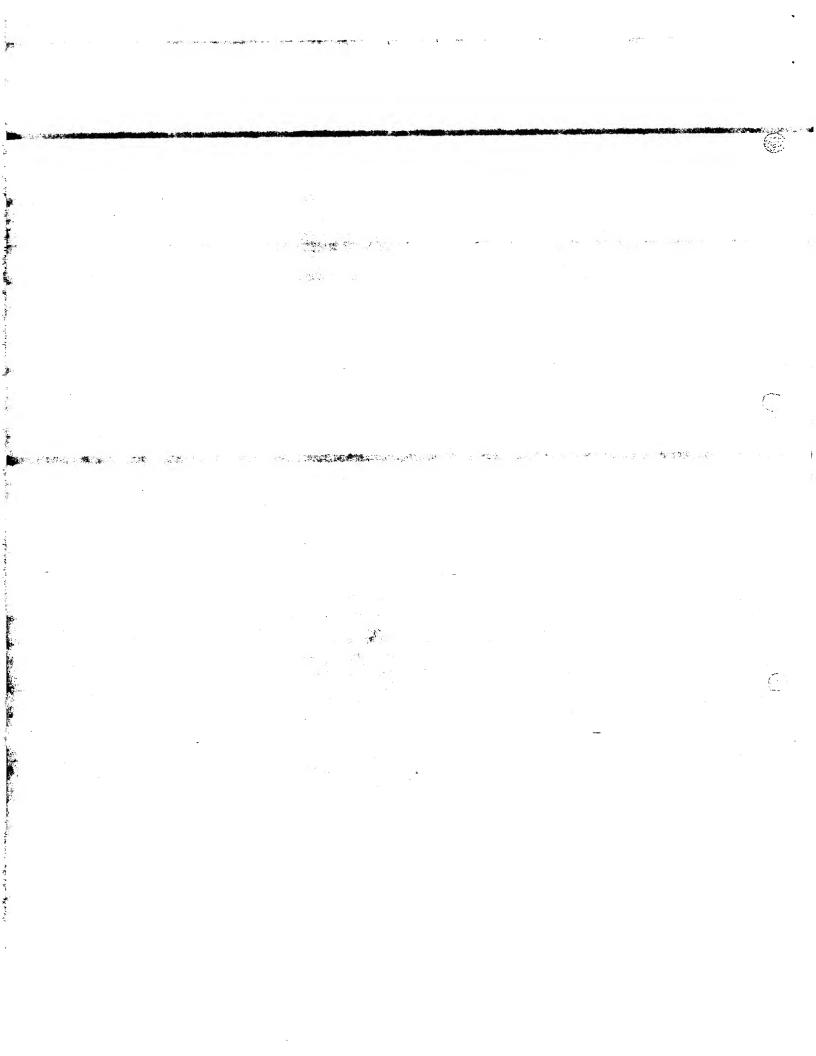
- 1 TGGXGCTCGG GTGXCCCGTG CGCGCCTCCG ACATGGCGGG ACGTGGCGCA
- 51 GAACTGGAGC AGCTCGAGAT GGCCATGGGG ATGGGCGGCG TGGGCGCCGG
- 101 CGCCGCCCC GACGACAGCT TCGCCACCCA CCTCGCCACG GACACCGGCA
- 151 CACAACCCCA CCGACCTGTC GTCTTGGGTC GAGAGCATGC TGTCGGATCT
- 201 CXACGCGCCX CCGXCGCCCC TCCCGCCCGC

14a1 clone Sequenced with Rht-16 Primer

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AXXTTGTXCX XXXTACATCC CATGXGCCGC GCXATGCTXA AGGTCGCCGC
51 CTACTTCGGC GCAGGCCCTC GCCCGCGCG TCTTCCGCTT CCGCCCGCAG
101 CCGGACAGCT CCCTCCTCGA CGCCGCCTTC GCCGACCTCC TCCACGCGCA
151 CTTCTACGAG TCCTGCCCCT ACCTCAAGTT CGCGCACTTC ACCGCCAACC
201 AGGCCATCCT GGAGGCGTTC GCCGGCTGCC GCCGCGTGCA CGTCGTCGAC
251 TTCGGCATCA AGCAGGGGAT GCAGTGGCCC GCACTTCTCC AGGCCCTCGC
301 CCTCCGTCCC GGCGGCCCTC CCTCGTTCCG CCTCACCGGC GTTCGGCCCC
351 CCGCAGCCGG ACGAXAACGA CGCCCTG

5 a 1 clone Sequenced with Rha-1 primer



18

1 XTTCCCCGGC AGTTAAAAGC XTCCACTTCT TCCACCGTCA CGGGCAGCGG
51 CGGXTACTTX GATCTCCCGC CCTCAGTCGA CTCCTCCAGC AGCATCTACG
101 CGCTGCGGCC GATCCCCTCC CCGGCCGGCG CGACGGCGCC GGCCGACCTG
151 TCCGCCGACT CCGTGCGGGA TCCCAAGCGG ATGCGCACTG GCGGGAGCAG
201 CACCTCGTCG TCATCCTCCT CATAXTCGTC TCTCGGTGGG GGCGCCAGGA
251 GCTCTGTGGT GGAGGCXGCC CCGCCGGTCG CGGCCGCGGC CAACGCGACG
301 CCCGCGCTGC CGGTCGTCGT GGTCGACACG CAGGAGGCCG GGATTCGGAT
351 GGTGCACGCG CTGXTGGCGT GCGCGGAGGC CGTGXAAGCA GTTXGAAGGG
401 CCTXCGCCGT GXATXXCGCA ACAAXXXGGA AGXCCX

5a1 clone Sequenced with Rha-3 priner

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1 CAXCCCGCTG XTCGCCACCT CGGCATGGCG CCTGGCCGGG CCGTGATCTC
51 GCGAGTTTTG AACGCTGTAA GTACACATCG TGAGCATGGA GGACAACACA
101 GCCCCGGCGG CCGCCCCGGC TCTCCGGCGA ACGCACGCAC GCACGCACTT
151 GAAGAAGAAG AAGCTAAATG TCATGTCAGT GAGCGCTGAA TTGCAXCGAC
201 CGGCTACGAT CGATCGGGCT ACGGGTGGTT CCGTCCGTCT GGCGTGAAGA
251 GGTGGATGGA CGACGAACTC CGAXCCGACC ACCACCGGCA TGTAGTAATG
301 TAATCCCTTC TTCGTTCCCA GTTTCTCCAC CGCCTCCATG ATCACCCCGT
351 AAAACTCCTA AGCCCTATXX XTTACTACXA TTAATGTTTT AAAXTGTTCT
401 AXTAATTGCT ATGXTGTTTA TTXCC

5a1 clone Sequenced with Rha-8 priner

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- 1 TATCGAAGTA GCCGCCGCTG CCCXTGCACG GTGGAGGAGG TGGAGGCGTT
- 51 GAGCTGCGGG GCGGGCGGA GGGGCGGCGG CGGCACGTTX AGCTCCGACA
- 101 GCATGCTCTC GACCCAAAAC XACAGGTCGG TGGGGTTGTA GTGCACGGTG
- 151 TCCGTGGCGA GGGGGTGGCX AAXCTGTCGT CAGGGGCGGC GCCXGCGCCC
- 201 ACXCCGCCCA TCCCCATGGC CATCTCGAXC TGCTCCAGCT TCTGCGCCAC
- 251 TTCCXCCATG TCXGATGCGC GCXCCTTGTA CCCGA

Jat done Sequenced with Rht-9 priner

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- 1 ACGCCCCGX CCXCCCXXGC TTGGGAGGGG ATCGGCCGCA GCGCXTAXAT
- 51 GCTGCTGGAG GAGTCGACGG AGGGCGGGAG ATCGAACTAG CCGCCGCTGC
- 101 CCGTGTACGG TGGAGGAGGT GGAGGCGTTG AGCTGCGGGG CGGGCGGGAG
- 151 GGGCAGCXGC TGCACGTTXA GCTCCCACAC CACGTCTCTC AACCCAACCA
- 201 CGACXCGTCT GTGGGGTXGT AATXCACGGT XTCCCTXGCT AXGTGGGTGG
- 251 CCAATCTXT

sal clone sequenced with Rht-10 primer

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- 1 CACGGTGTCC GTGGCGAGGT GGGTGGCGAA GCTGTCGTCG GGGGCGCGC
- 51 CGGCGCCCAC GCCGCCCATC CCCATGGCCA TCTCGAGCTG CTCCAGCTTC
- 101 TGCGCCACGT CCGCCATGTC GGAGGCGCGC ACCTTGTACC CGAGCGCCGC
- 151 CAGCAGCXCG XCCACCTCCT CCCCCTCCCC CGCCGCCGCC GACACCATCA
- 201 TCTTGTCCTC GGACGAXCCC ATGCCGCCAC CGCCGCCGCC GCTCCCTCCG
- 251 GCGTCCTGGT ACTCCCGCTT CATGATCCGC GAGCTACCTC GCCTCTCTAT
- 301 CTATCTCTGG CCAATAATTG CGCA

5 a 1 done Sequenced with Rht-12 primer



- 1 GACCACCACC GGCATGTAGT AATGTAATCC CTTCTTCXTT CCCAGTTCTC
 51 CACCGCCTCC ATGATCACCC GTAAAACTCC TAAGCCCTAT TATTACTACT
 101 ATTATGTXTA AATGTCTATT ATTGCTAXGT GTAATTCCTC CAACCGCTCA
 151 TATCAAAATA AGCACGGGCC GGACTTTGTT AGCAGCTCCA ATGAGAATGA
 201 AATGAATTTT GTACGCAAGG CACGTCCAAA ACTGGGCTGA GCTTTGTTCT
 251 GTTCTGTTAT GTTCATGGTG CTCACTGCTC TGATGAACAT GATGGTGCCT
 301 CCAATGGGTG GCTTTGCAAT TGTTGAACGT TTTGGCTTGG GGGACTTGGT
 351 GXXTGGTGCA TGGGAATGAA XATTCCACAT CCXCXGGAAT TAAAATTAGC
 - Sal clone Sequenced with Primer Pht-13

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Figure 3 a

TTTCAXTTTC XTCCTTTTTT CTTCTTTTTC CAACCCCGG CCCCXGACC CTTGGATCCA AATCCCGAAC CCGCCCCAG AACCXGGAAC CGAGGCCAAG CAAAAGXTTT GCGCCAATTA TTGGCCAGAG ATAGATAGAG AGGCGAGGTA GCTCGCGGAT CATGAAGCGG GAGTACCAGG ACGCCGGAGG GAGCGCCGCC 151 GGCGGTGGCG GCATGGGTTC GTCCGAGGAC AAGATGATGG TGTCGGCGGC GGCGGGGAG GGGAGGAGG TGGACGAGCT GCTGGCGGCG CTCGGGTACA 251 AGGTGCGCGC CTCCGACATG GCGGACGTGG CGCAGAAGCT GGAGCAGCTC 351 GAGATGGCCA TGGGGATGGG CGGCGTGGGC GCTGGCGCCG CCCCTGACGA CAGGTTXGCC ACCCGCXGGC CGCGGACACX GTGCAXTACA ACCCCACXGA 451 CXTGTCGTCT TGGGTCGAGA GCATGCTGTC GGAGCTAAAX GAGCCGCXGC 501 CGCCCTCCC GCCCGCCCG CAGCTCAACG CCTCCACCGT CACGGGCAGC 551 GGCGGXTACT TXGATCTCCC GCCCTCAGTC GACTCCTCCA GCAGCATCTA CGCGCTGCGG CCGATCCCCT CCCCGGCCGG CGCGACGGCG CCGGCCGACC TGTCCGCCGA CTCCGTGCGG GATCCCAAGC GGATGCGCAC TGGCGGGAGC AGCACCTCGT CGTCATCCTC CTCATAXTCG TCTCTCGGTG GGGGCGCCAG 751 GAGCTCTGTG GTGGAGGCXG CCCCGCCGGT CGCGGCCGCG GCCAACGCGA CGCCCGCGCT GCCGGTCGTC GTGGTCGACA CGCAGGAGGC CGGGATTCGG CTGGTGCACG CGCTGCTGGC GTGCGCGGAG GCCGTGCAGC AGGAGAACCT 851 CTCCGCCGCG GAGGCGCTGG TGAAGCAGAT ACCCTTGCTG GCCGCGTCCC AGGGCGCGC GATGCGCAAG GTCGCCGCCT ACTTCGGCGA GGCCCTCGCC 1001 CGCCGCGTCT TCCGCTTCCG CCCGCAGCCG GACAGCTCCC TCCTCGACGC 1051 CGCCTTCGCC GACCTCCTCC ACGCGCACTT CTACGAGTCC TGCCCCTACC 1101 TCAAGTTCGC GCACCTCACC GCCAACCAGG CCATCCTGGA GGCGTTCGCC 1151 GGCTGCCGCC GCGTGCACGT CGTCGACTTC GGCATCAAGC AGGGGATGCA 1201 GTGGCCGCA CTTCTCCAGG CCCTCGCCCT CCGTCCCGGC GGCCCTCCCT 1251 CGTTCCGCCT CACCGGCGTC GGCCCCCGC AGCCGGACGA GACCGACGCC 1301 CTGCAGCAGG TGGGCTGGAA GCTCGCCCAG TTCGCGCACA CCATCCGCGT 1351 CGACTTCCAG TACCGCGGCC TCGTCGCCGC CACGCTCGCG GACCTGGAGC 1401 CGTTCATGCT GCAGCCGGAG GGCGAGGAGG ACCCGAACGA AGAXCCCGAX 1451 GTAATCGCCG TCAACTCAGT CTTCGAGATG CACCGGCTGC TCGCGCAGCC

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CGGCGCCCTG GAAAAGGTTC TTGGGCACCG TGCGCCCCCG TGCGGCCCAG 1551 AATTCXTCAC CGTGGTGGAA ACAGGAGGCA AATCACAACT CCGGCACATT 1601 CCTGGACCGC TTCACCGAGT CTCTGCACTA CTACTCCACC ATGTTCGATT 1651 CCCTCGAGGG CGGCAGCTCC GGCGGCGGCC CATCCGAAGT CTCATCGGGG GCTGCTGCTG CTCCTGCCGC CGCCGGCACG GACCAGGTCA TXTCCGAGGT 1701 1751 GTACCTCGGC CGGCAGATCT GCAACGTGGT GGCCTGCGAG GGGGCGGAAC 1801 GCACAGAXCG CCACGAGACG CTGGGCCAGT GGCGGAACCG GCTGGGCAAC 1851 GCCGGGTTCG AGACCGTCCA CCTGGGCTCC AATGCCTACA AGCAGGCGAX 1901 CACGCTGCTG GCGCTCTTCG CCGGCGGCGA ACGGCTACAX GTGGAAGAAA 1951 AGGAAGGCTG CCTGACGCTG GGGTTGCACA CXCCCCCCTG ATTGCCACCT 2001 CGGCATGGCG CCTGGCCGGG CCGTGATCTC GCGAGTTTTG AACGCTGTAA 2051 GTACACATCG TGAGCATGGA GGACAACACA GCCCCGGCGG CCGCCCCGGC . 2101 TCTCCGGCGA ACGCACGCAC GCACGCACTT GAAGAAGAAG AAGCTAAATG TCATGTCAGT GAGCGCTGAA TTGCAGCGAC CGGCTACGAT CGATCGGGCT 2151 ACGGGTGGTT CCGTCCGTCT GGCGTGAAGA GGTGGATGGA CGACGAACTC CGAGCCGACC ACCACCGGCA TGTAGTAATG TAATCCCTTC TTCGTTCCCA 2251 2301 GTTCTCCACC GCCTCCATGA TCACCCGTAA AACTCCTAAG CCCTATTATT 2351 ACTACTATTA TGTTTAAATG TCTATTATTG CTATGTGTAA TTCCTCCAAC 2401 CGCTCATATC AAAATAAGCA CGGGCCGGAC TTTGTTAXCA GCTCCAATGA 2451 GAATGAAATG AATTTTGTAC GCAAGGCACG TCCAAAACTG GGCTGAGCTT 2501 TGTTCTGTTC TGTTATGTTC ATGGTGCTCA CTGCTCTGAT GAACATGATG 2551 GTGCCTCCAA TGGTGGCTTT GCAATTGTTG AAACGTTTGG CTTGGGGGAC 2601 TTGXGTGGGT GGGTGCATGG GGATGAATAT TCACATCXCC GGATTAAAAT 2651 TAAGCCATCC CGTTGGCCGT CCTTTGAATA XCTTGCCCXA AACGAAATTT 2701 CCCCCXATC

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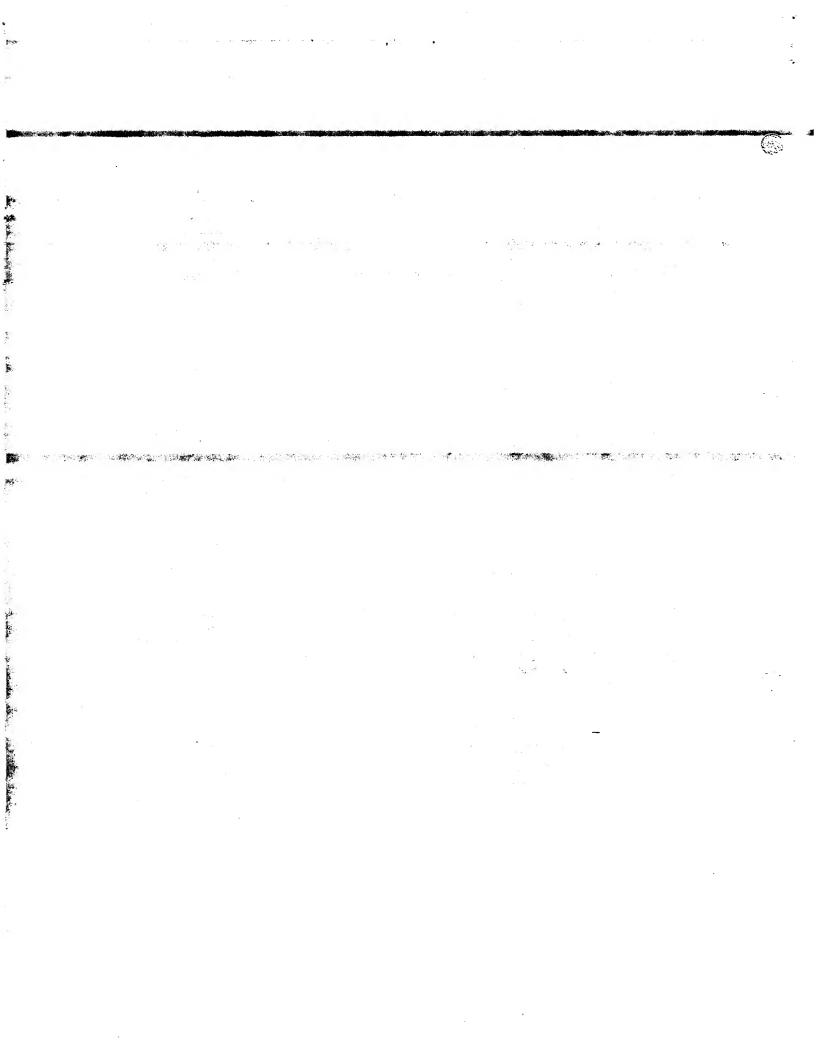
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•	VLGYKVRSSE ALGYKVRASD	DSMLTDLNPP ESMLSELXEP	IDSASSNQ. DLSADSVRDP	DSQENGVRLV DTQEAGIRLV	IYRLSPSQ VFRFRPQPDS	S Q G L Q W P A L M K Q G M Q W P A L L	G F V A N T L A D L G L V A A T L A D L	PEIFTVVE. Q PEFXTVVETQ	GTDOVXSEVY	LLALFNGGEG LLALFAGGER	
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-	KKTWMMNEED DKMMVSAAAG	LSQLATETVH XHPXAADTVX	SNAEYDLKAI SSIYALRPI	T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	S Q I G A M R K V A S Q G G A M R K V A	QAILEAFQGK QAILEAFAGC	EVGCKLAHLA QVGWKLAQFA	LLGRPGAIDK LLAQPGALEK	P S G Q · · · · S S G Q S P S E V S	GSAGFAAAHI GNAGFETVHL	532 630
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27 Figure 4a

1	ACGCGTCCGG	AAGCCGGCGG	GAGCAGCGGC	GGCGGGAGCA	GCGCCGATAT
51	GGGGTCGTGC	AAGGACAAGG	TGATGGCGGG	GGCGGCGGG	GAGGAGGAGG
101	ACGTCTACGA	GCTGCTGGCG	GCGCTCGGGT	ACAAGGTGCG	GTCGTCCGAC
151	ATGGCCGACG	TCGCGCAGAA	XCTGGAGCAG	CTGGAGATGG	CCATGGGGAT
201	GGGCGCGTG	AGCGCCCCG	GCGCCGCGGA	TGACGGGTTC	GTGTCGCACC
251	TGGCCACGGA	CACCGTGCAC	TACAACCCCT	CGGACCTCTC	CTCCTGGGTT
301	CXGAGAGCAT	GCTTTCGGAG	TTAAAGGCGC	CGTTGCCCCT	TATCCCGCCA
351	GGCGCCGCCG	GGCTGCCCGC	CATGCTTTCC	AACTTCGTCC	ACTGTCACCG
401	GCGGCGGTGG	TAGCGGCTTC	TTTGAAXTCC	CAGCCGCTGC	CGAXTCGTCG ;
451	AGTAGCACXT	ACGCCCTCAG	GCCGATCTCC	TTACCGGTGG	TGGCGACGGC
501	TGACCCGTCG	GCTGCTGACT	CGGCGAGGGA	CACCAAGCGG	ATGCGCACTG
551	GCGGCGGCAG	CACGTCGTCG	TCCTCATCGT	CGTCTTCCTC	TCTGGGCGGT
601	GGGGCCTCGC	GGGGCTCTGT	GGTGGAGGCT	GCTCCGCCGG	CGACGCAAGG
651	GGCCGCGGCG	GCGAATGCGC	CCGCCGTGCC	GGTTGTGGTG	GTTGACACGC
701	AGGAGGCTGG	XATCGGGCCT	GGTGC		



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ALGYKVRASD 6 ALGYKVRSSD 5 VLGYKVRSSE 4	ESMLSELXEP 1 ESMLSELKAP 1 DSMLTDLNPP 9	SPAGATAPAD 1 LPVVATADPS 1 GDAILNQ 1	ANATPALPVV 2 AANAPAVPVV 2 ATAESTRHVV 1	RKVAAYFGEA 2 KKVATYFAEA 2	FAGCRRVHUV 3 FOGKKRVHVI 2	AQFAHTERVD 4 AHLAEAHVE	ALEKVLGHRA 4 AIDKVLG VV	SEVSSGAAAA	TVHLGSNAYK AAHIGSNAFK
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DKMWWSAAAG KDKWMAGAAG KKTMMMNEED	XHPXAADTVX VSHLATDTVH LSQLATETVH	X D L P P S V D S S F E X P A A A X S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	GGASRGSVVE GGASRGSVVE DTYTTNKRLK	AAEALVKOIP VAEALVKOIG	E S C P Y L K F A H E T C P Y L K F A H	GVGPPQPDET GIGPPAPDNF	PXVIAVNSVF	LHYYSTMFDS	TXRHETLGOW VERHETLSOW
GGGGGMGSE GGSSADMGSC	GAGAAPDRQV SAPGAADGF	TVTGSGGY TVTGSGGSGF	S S S S X S S L G S S S S S S S L G S S S S S S L G	AEAVQQENES XEAVQQENE AEAVQKENLT	FADLLHAHFY LSDTLQMHFY	PGGPPSFRLT PGGPPVFRLT	PEGEEDPNEX	GTFLDRFTES PIFLDRFTES	N V V A C E G A E R N V V A C D G P D R
KREYQDAGGSTRRDHHHHQD	LEMANGMGGV LEMANGMGGV LEVMMS	LNA	RMRTGGSSTS RMRTGGGSTS	IRLVHALLAC IRLVHALLAC WRLVHALLAC	QPDSGLLDAA	PALLOALALR PALMOALALR	LADEEPFMEQ GADEDASMEE	VETQEANHNS	SEVYLGROIC SEVYLGKOIC
IERRGSSRIM	MADVAÇKLEÇ MADVAÇKLEÇ MADVAÇKLEÇ	XPPLPP.APQ LPLIPPGAAG	LSADSVRDPK AADSARDTK FAIDSÄ	VVDTQ EEBAG VVDTQEEBAG LVDSQ ENG	LARRVFRFRP LARRIYRLSP	DEGIKOGMOW DESMSOGLOW	F Q Y R G L V A A T F E Y R G F V A N T	PPCGPEFXTV NQIKPEIFTV	P A A A G T D Q W X
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Primers used in the RHT sequencing project.

<u>Name</u>	Sequence	Sense
RHA-1	CTG GTG AAG CAG ATA CCC TTG C	Forward
RHA-2	CTG GTT GGC GGT GAA GTG CG	Reverse
RHA-3	GCA AGG GTA TCT GCT TCA CCA GC	Reverse
RHA-5	CGC ACT TCA CCG CCA ACC AG	Forward
RHA-7	CCG TGC GCC CCC GTG CGG CCC AG	Forward
RHA-8	AGG CTG CCT GAC GCT GGG GTT GC	Forward
RHT-9	GAT CGG CCG CAG CGC GTA GAT GC	Reverse
RHT-10	GAT CCC GCA CGG AGT CGG CGG ACA G	Reverse
	TCC GAC AGC ATG CTC TCG ACC CAA G	Reverse
	TTC CGT CCG TCT GGC GTG AAG AGG	Forward
	AAA TCC CGA ACC CGC CCC CAG AAC	Forward
	GCG CCA ATT ATT GGC CAG AGA TAG	Forward
RHT-16	GGC ATG GGT TCG TCC GAG GAC AAG	Forward

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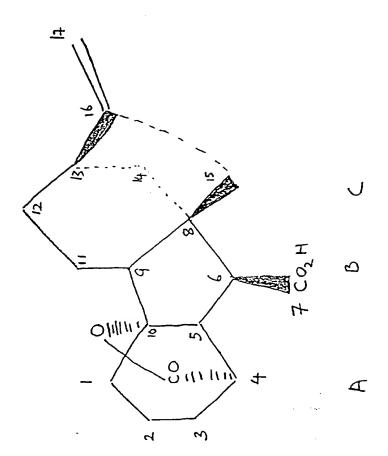


Figure 6

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